



MEDIA RELEASE

Felony Vandalism Arrest

SANTA BARBARA, CA – February 6, 2013

Following a four month investigation Aaron Sepulveda Nevarez, age 19, of Santa Barbara, was arrested for multiple counts of vandalism and participation in a criminal street gang. Nevarez is a Santa Barbara area gang member.

This case began on September 22, 2012, when Santa Barbara Police Department Gang Suppression Team officers documented a gang-related spray paint graffiti vandalism to a local market. The graffiti included a reference to a local gang subset and the moniker of a gang member. On October 8, 2012, the case was assigned to SBPD Youth Services Section Detective Gary Siegel for follow-up investigation. Detective Siegel has been a gang officer and investigator for over twelve years and is an expert in gang and vandalism investigations.

SBPD Gang Suppression Team and patrol officers routinely document gang-related graffiti vandalisms, and through January 2013 took reports of several other incidents throughout the city that bore similarities to the September 22, 2012, incident. The vandalisms consisted of writings, spray paintings, and etchings to both public and private property; some of which were done in rival gang territory to challenge and intimidate others. Using a variety of investigative techniques Detective Siegel was able to link Nevarez to the gang subset and moniker used in the vandalisms; a suspicion that was confirmed when he and other detectives served a search warrant at Nevarez's residence and found evidence supporting that fact in Nevarez's room.

On February 4, 2013, at 11:17 a.m. Nevarez was involved in a gang-related disturbance on 400 Anacapa Street and stopped by Officer Andrew Freytag. Upon learning that Nevarez was being detained Detective Siegel responded to the scene and arrested Nevarez for six counts of vandalism (three felony and three misdemeanor) and participation in a criminal street gang. When interviewed Nevarez admitted to committing the aforementioned acts of vandalism and to his membership in a street gang. Nevarez was booked into Santa Barbara County Jail with a bail amount of \$110,000.00. Photo provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office.



Nevarez, Aaron Sepulveda

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